

TOP SECRET

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CLASSIFIED BY 3838
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

JUNE

May 13, 1969

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REASONS FOR REQUEST OF
ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AUTHORIZATION

SECURITY PURPOSES INTENDED TO BE SERVED BY
SURVEILLANCE WHEN INSTITUTED AND PERIODICALLY CONTINUED

The security purposes intended to be served by this surveillance were to determine the extent of communist influence on King, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the racial situation in general. By his activities, King had become recognized by many as the "national leader" of Negro civil rights and the integration movement.

INFORMATION CONCERNING WHETHER OR NOT COVERAGE WAS
MONITORED ON DIFFERENT SURVEILLANCES ON THE SAME PREMISES

No other coverage was monitored on different surveillances on the same premises.

NATIONAL SECURITY DANGERS WHICH COULD RESULT
FROM DISCLOSURE OF SURVEILLANCE TO THE DEFENSE

Though this electronic surveillance has been discontinued, its disclosure to the defense would be prejudicial to national security interests since pertinent data developed regarding the activities of the CPUSA would be revealed.

① - 100-106570

(Martin Luther King, JR.)

1 - 65-8160

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SEE NOTE #4/33

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Attached is a copy of a Memorandum for the Attorney General dated October 7, 1963, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist, Communist Influence in Racial Matters," requesting authority to place a technical surveillance on the current, and any subsequent, residence of King. This request was approved by the Attorney General on October 10, 1963.

Attachment

NOTE:

Original and one copy of list sent to the Attorney General by transmittal letter captioned "Electronic Surveillances," dated 5/13/69.

Classified "Top Secret" since unauthorized disclosure of data herein could result in exceptionally grave damage to national defense interests.

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